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REMARKS

Claims 1-57 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. The applicants' representative appreciates the courtesies extended by the Examiner in the telephonic interview on October 8, 2004. In the interview, the Examiner conceded that Exhibit A (filed with the original 1.131 declaration) was sufficient to establish a complete reduction to practice and that one skilled in the art could practice the subject invention utilizing Exhibit A. In addition, the Examiner conceded that all the claimed limitations were found in Exhibit A to exhibit complete possession of the invention. However, the Examiner stated that any language relating to the conception of the invention be eliminated and that the declaration solely state that the subject invention was reduced to practice prior to the effective date of the prior art reference. Further, the Examiner stated that the amended 1.131 declaration submitted herewith would be accepted as a timely submission in this prosecution.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully requested in view of the following comments herein.

I. Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. 1.131

The declaration submitted under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 on June 3, 2004 stands ineffective since it is unclear from the declaration submitted if the applicant is attempting to show reduction to practice of the invention prior to the effective date of the prior art reference of the invention or conception of the invention prior to the effective date of the prior art reference coupled with due diligence until reduction to practice. It is respectfully requested that the declaration under 1.131 be accepted for at least the following reasons. A newly amended declaration is submitted herewith which includes a statement by the inventors that work submitted in Exhibit A was reduced to practice prior to the effective date of the prior art reference and Exhibit A provides a sufficient showing of facts to establish such a complete reduction to practice.

The declaration under C.F.R. 1.131 is submitted herewith to establish reduction to practice of the subject invention prior to the effective date of Spear, *et al.*, currently cited as a prior art reference in this prosecution. In particular, Exhibit A discloses all the limitations recited in the claimed subject invention. For example, independent claim 1

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recites a system for managing welding consumable(s), comprising: a welder having a consumables monitor (See Exhibit A, pg. 1, ll. 7-8); and a remote system adapted to facilitate management of welding consumable(s) for the welder based at least in part upon information received from the consumable(s) monitor (See Exhibit A, Fig. 1, pg. 1; pg. 1 ll. 7-16). Exhibit A additionally discloses specific implementation detail recited in the remainder of the subject claims and thus demonstrates a complete possession of the whole invention. (See Exhibit A). If the affidavit contains facts showing a completion of the invention commensurate with the extent of the invention as claimed is shown in the reference or activity, the affidavit or declaration is sufficient, whether or not it is a showing of the identical disclosure of the reference or the identical subject matter involved in the activity. See *In re Wakefield*, 422 F.2d 897, 164 USPQ 636 (CCPA 1970).

In view of at least the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Spear, *et al.* be withdrawn as a prior art reference and that the newly amended declaration under 1.131 be accepted.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-57 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Spear *et al.* (US 6,486,439). It is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn for at least the following reason. Spear *et al.* is an effective prior art reference since the subject invention was reduced to practice prior to the effective date (February 28, 2001) of Spear, *et al.* as described in the declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 submitted herewith.

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III. Conclusion

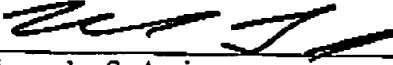
The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, in view of the above comments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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